

New inductees to Montana Circle of American Masters

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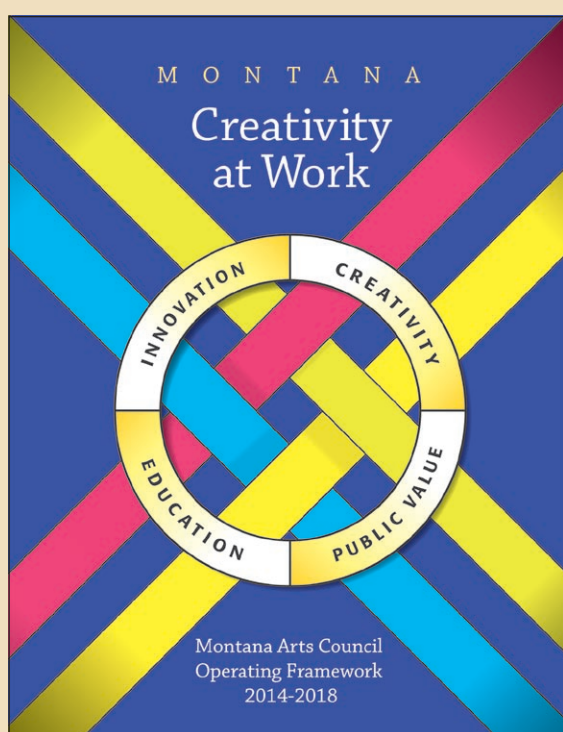


March/April 2014

Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

MONTANA ART NEWS



The Montana Arts Council's strategic planning work has recently concluded and the resulting 2014-2018 Operating Framework is now available online. It reflects the agency's priorities for the next five years and is drawn from input we received from over 3,500 Montanans! Thank you all for your participation. The document will also be available in hardcopy by the end of March.

Tracy Linder reappointed to Montana Arts Council

Governor Steve Bullock reappointed former Montana Arts Council member Tracy Linder, of Molt, to the council to complete the term of Allen Secher, of Whitefish, who resigned in the fall. Staff and council alike are happy to welcome her back!

Linder was originally appointed to the Montana Arts Council in 2008 by Governor Brian Schweitzer. During her four-year term, her dedication, hard work and creative ideas made their mark.

"We're thrilled to have her back on the board," says Fishbaugh. "She has been such a valuable voice for individual artists. She was integral to the establishment of the Artist's Innovation Award program, and her perceptive comments and suggestions influenced many aspects of the agency."

Linder is a contemporary artist, whose sculptures and installations address humanity's integral connection to the land and the sanctity of food sources. Linder grew up on a family farm and now lives on the vast windswept prairie of south-central Montana.

Her works have been shown nationally and extensively in Montana, Colorado, Wyoming and North Dakota. In 2013, the Missoula Art Museum presented a solo exhibit of Linder's "Blindsided" series, and in 2012, the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper, WY, presented a mid-career retrospective along with publishing a significant catalog.



Tracy Linder

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NEA budget increases by \$7 million

By Isaac Brown,
Legislative Counsel for the
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)

With funding for the federal government about to expire, budget leaders in the House of Representatives and Senate passed a compromise on legislation that funds the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2014. The bill provides for \$1.1 trillion in funding and will reduce the scope of the automatic spending cuts, known as the sequester, which remain in effect until FY2021.

Under the terms of the legislation, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will receive a funding level of \$146.021 million. This figure amounts to what the agency would have received this year had sequestration not reduced the agency's allocation to \$139 million.

While this figure is lower than the one proposed by both the president and the Senate (\$155 million), it is

substantially higher than the dramatic decrease proposed in the House bill last year (\$75 million), and a \$7 million increase over last year's allocation.

After reviewing the legislation, members of the House and Senate passed the bill, marking the first time since 2009 that Congress has approved a formal budget bill.

NASAA is pleased that advocates for the NEA in both chambers were able to protect the NEA from the destructive cut originally proposed in the House of Representatives. While the legislation is final and not susceptible to changes, we would encourage any of our members who live in states represented by members of the House or Senate Appropriations Committees to thank these legislators for their support of the NEA.

If you have any questions or would like more information about a specific issue in the bill, call 202-540-9162.

Livingston writer receives NEA Fellowship

By Kristi Niemeyer

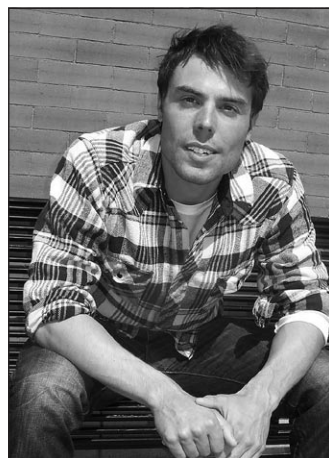
Livingston writer and fishing guide Callan Wink was among 38 authors receiving Creative Writing Fellowships of \$25,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Wink's short story, "Breatharians," was published in *The New Yorker*, and earned the magazine's Story of the Year Award for 2012. It was also selected for Best American Short Stories 2013, edited by Elizabeth Stout. Wink had a previous story in *The New Yorker* too, "Dog Run Moon," in 2011.

In honor of his accomplishment, we plied him with a few questions:

You apparently grew up in Michigan (true or false?). What brought you West and what keeps you here?

I did grow up in Michigan. I came to Montana when I was 19 to be a fishing guide. I went to college at Montana State and then grad school at the University of Wyoming. I can't see myself moving out of the west for long – I've gotten used to all the space, the big rivers and mountains. Most other places seem to lack a certain element of grandeur that I've come to find necessary.



Callan Wink

In your New Yorker interview (now three years old), you say, "Before the MFA, writing was this strange little neurotic activity I engaged in in furtive spurts after my days spent working construction or retail or fishing guiding," and that writing had since become the main focus. Is that still true? And does the Fellowship make your writing life feel even more substantial?

Definitely. It's extremely validating to receive something like the NEA grant. As writers or artists we like to think that the work is the most important thing. And I suppose it is, but it's nice to be able

to afford groceries too.

Outside of the money, it means a lot to me to be recognized by such an esteemed organization as the NEA. Writers I've admired my whole life have received these grants and it's surreal and fantastic to now be included in that list.

See Callan Wink on page 8

Western Art Week Celebrating the 150th birthday of Charlie Russell

Western Art Week celebrates the 150th birthday of the artist who inspired it all: Charlie Russell.

From March 19-23, Great Falls becomes the epicenter of the western art world with at least 10 different art shows and sales offering everything from fine art, to cowboy and Indian collectibles, to crafts and fine furniture.

Here's a snapshot of the week's events:

"The Russell: An Exhibition and Sale to Benefit the C.M. Russell Museum," March 20-23 at the C.M. Russell Museum,

Meadow Lark Country Club and the Mansfield Civic Center: The fifth annual sale moves its auction to a larger venue – the Mansfield Center. The signature fundraiser for the nonprofit museum features several distinct events: the Silent Auction and Art Preview, featuring art and travel experiences, 6-9 p.m. Thursday at the museum; and Art in Action, a quick-finish event featuring an auction,



Charlie Russell's 1985 painting, "Offering a Truce (Bested)" is expected to bring between \$1.3 and \$1.8 million at The Russell live auction.

entertainment and brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday at Meadow Lark Country Club. Action moves to the Mansfield Center for the First Strike Friday Night Auction, featuring works by up-and-coming artists, 4-6 p.m. Friday; a benefit concert by Emmylou Harris, 7-9 p.m. Friday; a free educational symposium by Brian Dippie, "Charles M. Russell in the 'Land of Bunko and Bungiloes': The California Years," from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday; the signature live auction, featuring fine art, hors d'oeuvres and beverages, 5 p.m. Saturday; the Last Chance Sale and Brunch, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday; and the Russell Skull Society of Artists Group Show, March 20-23. Contact: 406-727-8787 or www.cmrussell.org.

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